

GOOD SHEPHERD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
POLICY FOR
SERVICES ON THE OCCASION OF A DEATH

I. Purpose

As representatives of the body of Christ, the Session, ministers, and members of Good Shepherd Church are called to demonstrate the compassion and healing ministries given and empowered by the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." (Matthew 5:4)

We believe it is the calling of Good Shepherd Church to extend comfort and hope to its members (and as appropriate to non-members) who grieve the loss of a loved one. We witness to the truth and life of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and share His love with those who are experiencing loss and are in need of comfort and healing through a Witness to the Resurrection Service (Book of Order W-4.10000 ff) and the pastoral ministries of the church (W-6.3007 ff).

II. Service Planning

- A. The Pastor of Good Shepherd Church shall plan and direct GSPC Witness to the Resurrection services (W-4.10003). Clergy-persons, lay-speakers and musicians from other congregations or denominations may be invited to participate in the service at the request of the family and at the discretion of the Pastor of Good Shepherd (W-4.10003). The GSPC Pastor reserves the right not to honor or include any requests in a Witness to the Resurrection Service or accompanying reception at GSPC which might in any way detract from our faithful witness of the Lord Jesus Christ (W-4.10005). All civic, fraternal or military rites should be conducted outside of the service and off the premises of GSPC (W-4.10005), unless approved by the pastor.
- B. Funeral Director: Good Shepherd Church encourages those who have the responsibility of making funeral arrangements for a family member or friend to contract for mortuary services with any of the reputable funeral homes in Lincoln. A funeral director will be assigned and will be able to assist with options for disposition of the deceased and related costs. The funeral director will also coordinate all relevant service arrangements with the GSPC Pastor, under whose direction these shall be made.
- C. Pastoral care to the family will be provided by the Pastor and others of Good Shepherd Church.

III. Building Use for Services

- A. Ordinarily, the sanctuary and facilities of GSPC will be used for the Witness to the Resurrection Service (W-4.10003 and .10005). The 300-seat sanctuary of Good Shepherd Church is available for such services during the week and on weekends except during scheduled activities and services (W-4.10003). The 75-seat Parlor and the church kitchen can also be utilized for receptions. Use of the building must be scheduled through the church office.
- B. Items available for memorial services upon request: reserved seating for the family, candlesticks and/or candelabra, easels for portraits (2), flower stands (2), and Communion table.
- C. The fees (waived for GSPC members and friends) for use of the Sanctuary, the Parlor and additional rooms in the building are available on the accompanying fee schedule.

IV. Receptions

- A. Receptions may be held in our GSPC Parlor. If, however, larger numbers than can be safely accommodated are expected, the family should consider holding a reception elsewhere.
- B. The family may make their own arrangements to have a reception at GSPC catered. The Deacons of Good Shepherd Church can be requested to serve an in-home meal to the family OR serve snacks/refreshments following the memorial service. A donation to the Deacon's Fund is appropriate if this service is used.
- C. Groups utilizing the kitchen are required to thoroughly clean all appliances, countertops, and floor immediately following their event. All utensils, pots, dishes, and silverware used are to be washed and stored. Sinks are to be cleaned (scrubbed if necessary), and all trash is to be deposited in the dumpster in the parking lot.

V. Other Services/Elements

- A. The Accompanist of Good Shepherd Church is usually available to play the organ and/or the piano for services for a \$100 fee. Other musicians, soloists and special music for the memorial service may be used but must be coordinated through the Pastor of Good Shepherd Church. Secular music (non-Christian) ordinarily shall not be used in a Witness to the Resurrection service (W-4.10003 and .10005)
- B. There is no set fee for the Pastor of GSPC to officiate at a Witness to the Resurrection Service for a church member. An honorarium in appreciation for his/her service is appropriate. Staff of local funeral homes can assist the family with the current standard honorarium.
- C. There is a fee of \$250.00 for the pastor's services for non-member funerals.
- D. Funeral Directors offer worship program services separate from a worship bulletin. GSPC will furnish worship bulletins.
- E. Flowers may be displayed during the Witness to the Resurrection Service and reception (if held at GSPC). The family, in coordination with the funeral director, shall be responsible for the disposition and/or removal of all flowers following the service/reception.

VI. Memorials

The family of the deceased may request memorial gifts be sent to any recipient fund or organization they desire. However, GSPC encourages donations designated to our Foundation Fund or to any GSPC approved project to further the ministry out of Good Shepherd. The GSPC Pastor will help the family coordinate their choices related to GSPC.

VII. Additional Considerations

It is expected that those who use the facilities of Good Shepherd Church be responsible for maintaining proper church decorum. Smoking, alcohol, illegal drugs, weapons, *pets and fireworks are not allowed in the building or on the grounds of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church.

***Does not include service animals**

(Updated December, 2020)